REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed August 17, 2004. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 1-20 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-20 were rejected. Claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Claims 2 and 4-6 have been amended to maintain proper antecedent basis with Claim 1. Claim 9 has been amended to correct a clerical error. Claims 3, 18, and 19 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4, 6, and 20 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,620,079 issued to Jens H. Molbak (hereafter "Molbak-079"). In particular, with regard to Claim 3, the Examiner asserts that Molbak-079 discloses a wireless network interface that receives commands from a network operation center over a wireless network, and that these commands are operable to correct at least one uncorrected error condition upon the field asset. (*see* Official Action, page 4) In support of this assertion, the Examiner points to Molbak, column 10, lines 31-44.

Applicants submit that the cited portion of Molbak-079 refers to an embodiment in which a microprocessor can respond to a detected jam, and possibly clear the jam automatically, without requiring intervention by store personnel. Applicants submit, however, that simply using a microprocessor to clear a coin jam does not teach or suggest receiving commands from a network operation center over wireless network, wherein the commands are used to correct an uncorrected error in a field asset, as recited generally in Applicants original Claim 3.

Claims 1-4 and 6

In response to the Examiner's rejection set forth in the Official Action dated August 17, 2004, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include elements formerly recited in Claim 3. Thus, Claim 1 now recites a wireless network interface operable to "receive commands from the network operations center transmitted via the wireless network, said commands operable to correct at least one uncorrected error condition on the vending

machine." Inasmuch as Molbak-079 does not teach or suggest, alone or in combination with any other cited art, receiving commands from a network operations center over a wireless network, with the commands operable to correct at least one uncorrected error condition, Applicants submit that Molbak-079 does not teach or suggest each and every element recited in Claim 1. Inasmuch as Molbak does not teach or suggest each and every element recited in independent Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Inasmuch as Claims 2 and 4-6 depend from allowable independent Claim 1, Claims 2 and 4-6 are themselves allowable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Examiner to allow Claims 2 and 4-6.

Claim 20

For the reasons set forth below with respect to Claim 13, Applicants submit that Claim 13 is in condition for allowance. Inasmuch as Claim 20 depends from allowable independent Claim 13, Claim 20 is itself allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 5 and 7-11

Claims 5 and 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Molbak-079 in view of U.S. Patent 6,385,772 issued to Jonathan D. Courtney (hereafter "Courtney").

Claim 5

Inasmuch as Claim 5 depends from allowable independent Claim 1, Claim 5 is itself allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-11

In response to the Examiner's rejection of Claim 7, Claim 7 has been amended to recite a system for the Internet-enabled management of a field asset comprising a network operations center operable to "transmit a command via a wireless network in response to selection of the at least one entry, said command operable to correct at least one uncorrected

error condition on the field asset." Applicants submit that neither Molbak-079 nor Courtney teaches or suggests, alone or in combination, a system that <u>transmits a command via a wireless network in response to selection of an entry indicating an error condition</u>, much less that the <u>command is operable to correct at least one uncorrected error condition on a field asset</u>. Consequently, Applicants submit that amended Claim 7 is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Inasmuch as Claims 8-12 depend from allowable independent Claim 7, Claims 8-12 are themselves allowable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of Claims 8-12, and allow Claims 8-12 to issue.

Claim 12

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Molbak-079 in view of Courtney, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,957,262 issued to Jens H. Molbak et al. (hereafter "Molbak-262"). Inasmuch as Claim 12 depends from allowable independent Claim 7, Claim 12 is itself allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-17 and 18-19

Claims 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Molbak-262 in view of Molbak-079. Claims 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Molbak-262 in view of Molbak-079, and further in view of Courtney.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of Claim 13, Claim 13 has been amended to include elements formerly included in Claims 18 and 19, which have been canceled. Specifically, Claim 13 now recites a method for monitoring the operating status of a field asset comprising "sending a message indicative of the error condition to an Internet-enabled remote device for display; and initiating at least one command on the monitoring device to correct the error condition on the field asset in response to selection of the command from an Internet-enabled remote device."

In rejecting Claim 19, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate an Internet-enabled remote device disclosed in Courtney with the control system of Molbak-262 to provide for periodically monitoring remote devices from anywhere using a personal digital assistant. Without specifically addressing the assertion that combining the teachings of Molbak and Courtney would make monitoring a remote device wirelessly obvious, Applicants note that neither Courtney nor Molbak-262, alone or in combination, teach or suggest initiating a command on the monitoring device, in response to selection of a command and a remote device, to correct an error condition on the field asset (e.g. a remote device commands a field asset to correct an error condition). Consequently, the combination of Molbak-262 and Courtney does not teach or suggest all elements of independent Claim 13, and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of Claim 13.

Furthermore, inasmuch as Claims 14-17 depend from allowable independent Claim 13, Claims 14-17 are themselves allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Change of Correspondence Address

Applicants respectfully request that all papers pertaining to the above-captioned patent application be directed to Customer No. 31625 and all telephone calls should be directed to Edward J. Marshall at 512.322.2545. Applicants enclose a Change of Correspondence Address for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office records.

Petition for Extension of Time

Applicants enclose a Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time Request, along with a check in the amount of $510.00 for the filing fee (small entity).
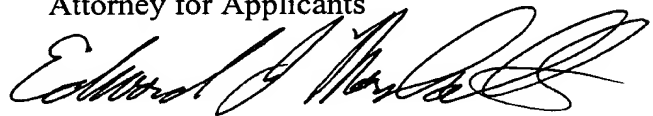
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 1-20 as amended.

11

Applicants believe there are no additional fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorney for Applicants

Edward J. Marshall
Reg. No. 45,395

Date: _1/24/05_

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:
Baker Botts L.L.P.
CUSTOMER ACCOUNT NO. 31625
512.322.2545
512.322.8319 (fax)

Attachment(s):

1.   Change of Correspondence Address Form
2.   Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal
3.   Check in the amount of $395.00 for RCE filing fee
4.   Petition for Extension of Time
5.   Check in the amount of $510.00 for Extension Fee

AUS01:357445.1